

AMENDMENT TO MR. TAUZIN'S AMENDMENT
OFFERED BY MS. SOLIS

(Page & line nos. refer to Chairman's Mark of June 17, 2003)

At the end of title I (page 89, after line 33), insert the following new section (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

1 **SEC. 108. IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**
2 **TO CERTAIN LOW INCOME MEDICARE BENE-**
3 **FICIARIES.**

4 (a) NOTICES TO CERTAIN NEW MEDICARE BENE-
5 FICIARIES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—On conjunction with the
7 mailing of a notice to individuals that the individuals
8 have been deemed to be enrolled under part B of
9 title XVIII of the Social Security Act, the Secretary
10 shall send a notice and application for benefits under
11 title XIX of the Social Security Act to those individ-
12 uals the Secretary identifies as being likely to be eli-
13 gible for benefits under clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of sec-
14 tion 1902(a)(10)(E) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
15 1396a(a)(10)(E)). Such notice and application shall
16 be accompanied by information on how to submit
17 such an application and on where to obtain more in-
18 formation (including answers to questions) on the
19 application process.

1 (2) INCLUDING INFORMATION IN MEDICARE &
2 YOU HANDBOOK.—The Secretary shall include in the
3 annual handbook distributed under section 1804(a)
4 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395b–2(a))
5 information on the availability of Medicare Savings
6 Programs and a toll-free telephone number that
7 medicare beneficiaries may use to obtain additional
8 information.

9 (b) ADDITIONAL CMS FUNDING FOR OUTREACH AND
10 ENROLLMENT PROJECTS.—There are authorized to be ap-
11 propriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise
12 appropriated, to the Secretary \$100,000,000 for the sole
13 purpose of providing grants to States to fund projects to
14 improve outreach and increase enrollment for benefits by
15 reason of eligibility under clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section
16 1902(a)(10)(E) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(E)).
17 Such projects may include cooperative grants and con-
18 tracts with the following groups to assist in the enrollment
19 of eligible individuals:

20 (1) Community groups.

21 (2) Federal, State, and local government offices
22 that provide assistance to low-income individuals for
23 energy costs and for health care services.

1 (3) Such other groups as the Secretary deter-
2 mines to be most effective in increasing enrollment
3 for such benefits.

4 (c) AUTOMATIC REENROLLMENT OF CERTAIN LOW-
5 INCOME INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT NEED TO REAPPLY.—

6 ~~(1) IN GENERAL.—Such section 1905(p) is fur-~~
7 ther amended by adding at the end the following
8 new paragraph:

9 “(8) In the case of an individual who has been deter-
10 mined to qualify as a qualified medicare beneficiary or to
11 be eligible for benefits under section 1902(a)(10)(E)(iii),
12 the individual shall be deemed to continue to be so quali-
13 fied or eligible without the need for any annual or periodic
14 application unless and until the individual notifies the
15 State that the individual’s eligibility conditions have
16 changed so that the individual is no longer so qualified
17 or eligible.”.

18 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
19 1902(e)(8) (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(8)) is amended by
20 striking the second sentence.

21 (d) USE OF SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROCESS.—
22 Such section 1905(p) is further amended by adding at the
23 end the following new paragraph:

24 “(9) A State shall permit individuals to apply to qual-
25 ify as a qualified medicare beneficiary or for benefits

1 under section 1902(a)(10)(E)(iii) through the use of the
2 simplified application form developed under section
3 1905(p)(5)(A) and shall permit such an application to be
4 made over the telephone or by mail, without the need for
5 an interview in person by the applicant or a representative
6 of the applicant.”.